

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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Department of State

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JUL 10 1 PM 1949

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SENT TO: Ambassador MOSCOW

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RPTD INFO: Ambassador LONDON
Ambassador PARIS
Ambassador BONN

40. FOR AMBASSADOR

PARIS DEPT USRU

Moscow's 82, repeated London 7, Paris 11, Bonn 5.

We agree that focus of attention in NAC discussion and world press statements on status Allied rights in Soviet proposal tended overemphasize one of elements of possible interim arrangement on Berlin. We do not believe, however, that Western Powers have tactically been placed in position where they would have to accede to any arrangement regardless of contents merely because Soviets admit validity of our rights at end of proposed time period. Following exchange during Secretary's press conference yesterday brings out US position:

BEGIN TEXT

Q. Do you have any idea that the United States might modify its position on the maintenance of its rights in Berlin?

A. We have not indicated any such thing.

Q. If the Russians withdraw their limitations on alleged or proposed limitation on our rights in Berlin, does that qualify as the progress that is necessary

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Drafted by:

EUR:GER:MJHillenbrand:all:2 7/10/59

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

EUR - Foy D. Kohler

Clearance:

EE - Mr. Toon

S/S Mr. James

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[necessary to go on to the summit? Or will we require some other further progress?

A. Well, as you know, we had not come close to agreement. There are other elements, obviously, that have still got to be planned out and when I mentioned this one particular attitude of the Russians, it does not necessarily mean that a satisfactory answer to that means a satisfactory agreement.

Q. Mr. Secretary, if the Soviets did give a satisfactory answer on that point, would it be possible for the Western powers then to join in negotiations on the basis of the Soviet proposal?

A. Not necessarily. The Soviet proposal contains a number of things that I think you would realize, in view of our position, are objectionable to us. The Soviet proposal and our own proposals I think had only two or three things in common, that actually overlapped, from the point of view of points of issue. I would hope that we would return to negotiation on the basis of our proposals. END TEXT

In order to avoid speculation re possible further Western concessions or fall-back positions which would weaken our ^{negotiating posture} ~~position~~ before resumption Geneva Conference, discussions with Allies have been held to minimum during past three weeks and no papers have been circulated to them.

As matter of fact, however, we have been thinking in terms of possible Four Power Commission with German Advisers as suggested in final paragraph your telegram and as already accepted by Western Powers in exchange of notes after Bundestag Resolution of July 2, 1958. We understand that FEDREP FONOFF considering similar approach.

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(FDK)

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By <i>EJK</i>	Date 2/14/40